

We Will Never Approve the Enforcement of the “War Bills”

---We Protest the Steamrolling of “War Bills” and Insist on Abolishing them---

September 19, 2015

Executive Committee

All Japan Teachers’ and staffs’ Union (Zenkyo)

On the early morning of September 19, the Abe Cabinet rammed the Security legislation, ‘International Peace Support Law’ and ‘Legislation for Peace and Security’ (so-called ‘War Bills’) in the upper house of the Diet. More than 60 percent of the citizen are against these bills. We, Zenkyo, strongly protest against this reckless decision.

It has become clear through the arguments in the Diet that the ‘War Bills’ Mr. Abe introduced are not necessary needed because his previous explanations are not reasonable. He explained their necessity, giving such cases as Iranian Government shutting down the Strait of the Hormuz, or an emergency situation in which the Japanese are saved when riding on the American Fleet. However, Iranian government denies the intention of the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, and Collective Defense will be deployed even though no Japanese are on board. Furthermore, there is no clear restriction on SDF providing logistical support, which will lead to using the armed force. It does violate our constitution. In addition, it became clear that as for the collective defense, these bills do not legally exclude the transportation of not only inhuman weapons and depleted Uranium ammunition but also nuclear weapons.

Moreover, on the day when the deliberation started in the Diet, a meeting was held inside SDF. Establishing the military-to-military coordination center, which makes operational adjustments of the U.S. military and the SDF, has been discussed there. Furthermore, the government admitted that Mr. Kawano, the ranking officer of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces, told the U.S. defense authorities last December, when he visited the U.S. that Japan would enact the national security legislation by the following August. This is the reckless driving of the military authority. It may be associated with a kind of Civilian Control. Having had the arguments for over 100 hours in the Special Committee of each house, the government closed the debates without the consent of opposition parties. As the deliberation continued, the necessity, logic and consistency of the war bills have been lost and it revealed that they are unconstitutional.

The Article 98 in Japanese Constitution states that this Constitution shall be the supreme law of the nation and no law, ordinance, imperial rescript or other act of government, or part thereof, contrary to the provisions hereof, shall have legal force or validity. Almost all the constitutionalist, ex-Chief Cabinet Legislation Bureau as well as ex-Chief Justice of the Supreme Court declared the bills unconstitutional and are against enacting the bills because these unconstitutional bills should not have been introduced in the Diet and it shall not have validity.

Resistant campaigns have grown to the unprecedented scale. Many organizations and individuals have joined together to participate. Among organizations are “No war, No destruction of Article 9! Sougakari Action Committee”, “Lawyers Association” which has played leading roles, “Students Emergency Action for Liberal Democracy-s (SEALDs)” for the young and college students, “T-ns Sowl” for high school students, “We will never let anyone’s child be killed” for mothers and women and so on. We had never seen before such countless assemblies and protesting parades held throughout the nation for several months. This action started in accordance with opposing ‘the war bills’ and has broadened across the country. Even after the enactment, it has been developing continuously against Abe’s Cabinet and coalition government of LDP and Koumei Party with the slogans “We will never forgive the Abe’s Cabinet ”, and “Change the politics” and “Protect the democracy”.

For 70 years after the war, thanks to the strong and tenacious efforts for peace, our SDF has killed not a person, nor has a self-defense official been killed overseas. This enactment means abandoning our peace and changing into the nation to wage wars.

Based on the remorse that pre-war education stirred up the students to war, we adopted the slogan “Never send our children to the battle fields again” and have valued it. We, teaching personals, will never admit enforcing the bills, which will seriously affect children’s future.

In this protest movement, Zenkyo had developed the campaign, strengthening and widening the solidarity with so many other organizations and many citizens. We declare that with this wide and strong solidarity we will continue fighting against this unconstitutional war legislation until we are able to abolish it.